



History

Women Giving Back (WGB) supports women and children in crisis on a first step to stability by providing quality clothing at no cost, assisted by a caring and committed community. Their story began in 2007 when the three founders— Terri Stagi, Leslie Strittmatter, and Fiona Hughes— working in the homebuilder industry learned just how many barriers women in shelters faced because they lacked appropriate clothing. They acted, beginning as a program under HomeAid Northern Virginia and operating out of a small humble closet at the Northern Virginia Builder Association. They began providing free, quality clothing to women in need.

As the program grew, Women Giving Back moved into their current location in Sterling, Virginia in 2011. Embodying the philosophy of women helping women, they set out to create an uplifting place where women could come to shop for clothing they needed free from financial restraints.

In 2015, WGB doubled its facility size with the completion of an addition through partnership with HomeAid Northern Virginia. The expansion to the store's existing retail space went from 5,414 square feet to 8,619 square feet with an additional 4,425 square feet of office space. This has enabled WGB to serve 50 percent more shoppers – vulnerable and at-risk women and children in our community – with clothing, coats and accessories for work and school. WGB distributed over 80,000 clothing items in 2016 and has distributed over 3 million since it was founded.

In September 2016, the Board recruited and hired their first full-time staff member. The Operations Manager (now CEO) has an extensive nonprofit program management background. She has been critical to the continuation of programs development in addition to putting policies and systems in place to ensure the growth and expansion that WGB has experienced in the last few years is maintained.

Since its inception, Women Giving Back has expanded its supportive programs beyond clothing assistance to provide more complete and comprehensive aid to the women and children it serves. WGB starting distributing Kids' Snack Packs in 2018, providing kid-friendly meals and snacks in convenient bundles to help ameliorate food insufficiency. In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic created a ripple effect of unexpected hurdles, WGB opened its own new Diaper Pantry in an effort to close the diaper need gap and has distributed over 1.3 million diapers.

From grassroots humble beginnings, Women Giving Back has grown into an organization that serves more than 25,000 women and children in need every year. They have amassed nearly 5,000 dedicated volunteers and 1,300 referral partners throughout the Greater Washington Metro area. Over the past 16 years, Women Giving Back's programs have grown to meet the expanding and evolving needs of the community it serves.